

'Tis the Season

The holiday tree in Shirlington is aglow with festive lights.

Sisters In Arms

NEWS PAGE 3

Tejada Looks Back

NEWS, PAGE 3

Greenbacks For Green Projects

NEWS, PAGE 4

Yorktown Takes Round 1 Over W-L

SPORTS, PAGE 12

CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12

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Sisters In Arms

Arlington forges international alliances through its Sister City program.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Banosh is one of the most popular dishes in the Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankivsk. According to Chrystia Sonevtsky, an Arlington resident who visited the city this summer, the delicacy is made from specially prepared corn meal mixed with large, wild mushrooms and goat cheese.

"It's a food that sounds awful but is delicious," she said.

Sonevtsky travelled there to forge an alliance between Arlington County and Ivano-Frankivsk, a Ukrainian university town of 240,000 located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Along with a group of other county residents, she is trying to make Ivano-Frankivsk Arlington's newest Sister City.

"This is what we're doing here, building long-term relationships."

— County Board Member **Walter Tejada (D)**

"It's a picturesque city," Sonevtsky said. "It has done a lot of improvement of infrastructure since the collapse of the U.S.S.R. It was voted recently as one of the most progressive cities in the Ukraine."

"You've got Ukrainians and Poles living there rather harmoniously," she added. "There is lots of intermingling of cultures."

ARLINGTON'S Sister City program has been in existence for nearly a decade and a half. It was founded by a group of Arlingtonians who wanted to widen the county's cultural horizons by establishing relationships with cit

SEE ARLINGTON, PAGE 5

Sister Cities

Arlington has four Sister Cities:

- ◆ Aachen, Germany
- ◆ Reims, France
- ◆ Coyoacan, Mexico
- ◆ San Miguel, El Salvador



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

The Styrofoam boards are inked for printing.

Hands-on Learning

On a recent Saturday at the Arlington Arts Center, Katy Forden was teaching 15 children a simple process of printmaking. The session began with the children first discussing different habitats and then proceeding to produce drawings on paper.

Those drawings were then used as guides to make impressions in Styrofoam board that would become a printing plate. The images were finalized onto art paper cut to greeting cards.

In the next classroom Hedieh Ilchi

Animals and butterflies are drawn from memory by the K-Grade 2 students in Katy Forden's printmaking class.



Hedieh Ilich works with children in grades 3-5 to create wire sculptures.

worked with an older group of children forming small sculptures with wire, beads and fabric upon a wooden base.

Upcoming 8-week classes start on Feb. 11. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for more information on registration and other programs. Registration forms may be found online or at the Arts Center office.

The Arlington Arts Center is located at 3550 Wilson Blvd.



Katy Forden works with a student in making the print impression in a Styrofoam board.

Tejada Looks Back

Board chairman relinquishes his gavel and reflects on his accomplishments.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Walter Tejada's term as chairman of the Arlington County Board came to an end this week. In his last official act as chairman, Tejada (D) gave a speech that reviewed his accomplishments and reaffirmed the priorities that he set out at the beginning of the year.

"As our nation copes with what increasingly looks to be a deep and painful recession, Arlington is well-positioned to weather the storm," he told the audience at a well-attended event to usher in the new term on the County Board. "The state of Arlington County continues to be outstanding."

WHEN TEJADA assumed the chairmanship of the County Board on Jan. 1 of this year, he laid out a three-pronged agenda that focused on physical and environmental health, affordable housing and diversity.

At the time, Tejada's agenda was criticized as being both overreaching and too modest. Some said that taking up hot-button issues such as immigration and urbanization in an election year was unwise. Others noted that, unlike in 2007 when former Board Member Paul Ferguson (D) proposed an ambitious environmental initiative, Tejada's agenda contained no new initiatives supported by major county spending.

Tejada defended his decision not to introduce a major spending initiative this year, saying that in difficult budgetary times the county needed to maintain funding for core programs such as schools and public safety without raising taxes prohibitively. "Today we understand even more than a year ago how important it is to pay attention to the basics," he said.

Tejada also defended his efforts to tackle the issues of immigration and diversity through a series of high-profile community forums. As other communities in Northern Virginia pass harsh measures against illegal immigration, he said, it is important for Arlington to reaffirm its commitment to inclusiveness. "Unlike other jurisdictions," Tejada said, "We recognize the value of com

SEE TEJADA'S, PAGE 5

Boundary Vote

The Arlington School Board's vote on Superintendent Robert Smith's recommendation to change elementary school boundaries occurred after the deadline for this issue of the Arlington Connection. For the results of the vote and reaction from parents and School Board members, visit www.arlingtonconnection.com.

Arlington Budget Stabilizes

The outlook for Arlington's budget next year has grown a little less dire, according to County Manager Ron Carlee. In a report to the County Board earlier this week, Carlee said that local residential real estate assessments would decline by less than two percent next year.

County officials had feared that revenue from assessments, which the county relies heavily upon for its yearly spending plan, might decrease by as much as five percent in 2009. Based on the latest economic data, however, Carlee said that the decline will be more modest than that.

"There appears to be no further deterioration of economic conditions in Arlington from the projections presented to you in November," Carlee told the board. "We are not seeing conditions worsen beyond early estimates."

The fluctuation in Arlington's commercial real estate assessments are still unknown, county spokesperson Diana Sun said, and this could have an effect on the amount of funds the county will be able to spend in next year's budget.

Based on the preliminary figures, county officials are predicting a \$40 million shortfall for the 2009-2010 budget, which will be approved by the County Board this spring. However, officials were concerned that the budget shortfall might have been closer to \$50 million if assessments declined further. Carlee has informed the board that some combination of tax increases and program cuts will be necessary to fill this hole in the budget.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

Outrage Prompts Change In Ticket Appeal Process

Arlington County has once again changed its parking ticket appeal process after many residents complained that its new appeal system was inconvenient.

As a result of the latest change, which was made by the County Board last weekend in an emergency ordinance, all parking ticket appeals will first come to the County Manager's office before being sent to the courts for adjudication. The manager's staff has the authority to void parking citations based on clerical or administrative error or on extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the vehicle operator.

Previously, the Arlington County Police Department was tasked with handling these appeals. But earlier this year, the staff members of the department's parking appeals board were reassigned. This meant that all parking ticket appeals had to be heard in General District Court.

According to a county statement, numerous people complained about the changes after they went into effect last month. "Residents and customers ... expressed concerns about the inconvenience of having to personally appear twice to contest a ticket: once at the Arlington County Police Department to set an appeals date and again for a hearing at the General District Court," the statement read.

After the County Board's emergency ordinance last weekend, those wishing to appeal parking tickets will need to appear only once at the County Manager's office. The County Board will hold a hearing on this policy at its January meeting to examine ways to improve the parking ticket appeal system.

Domestic Violence Program Wins Two-Year Grant

Project PEACE, the county's program that seeks to end domestic violence, received a \$385,000 federal grant last week.

SEE WEEK IN ARLINGTON, PAGE 7

NEWS



County Board Member Jay Fisette (D) and other local leaders are requesting federal money for green projects.

Greenbacks for Green Projects

Federal money should be spent on eco-friendly items, local leaders say.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

President-elect Barack Obama seeks to stimulate the economy by passing a public works project with a price tag that could run well into the trillions; the leaders of local governments in the Washington area have some suggestions as to how that money should be spent.

Last week, local leaders from Maryland and Northern Virginia gathered to request that the stimulus money be spent on environmentally friendly projects that would create "green" infrastructure across the country.

Led by Climate Communities, a national coalition of cities and counties that lobbies the federal government on climate change issues, the local leaders have a wish-list of green public works projects that could be started immediately.

"Everyone and their brother are coming to Washington and talking about the funding they need," said Ron Brown, executive director of Climate Communities. "But these projects are different. They will create jobs and will wean us off of foreign oil."

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Council Member Roger Berliner (D) said that his county would use the federal funds to provide no-interest loans to homeowners. The loans would be used to retrofit homes to make them more energy efficient, he said. If 30 percent of the households in Montgomery County took these loans, it could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 200,000 tons annually.

Berliner said that the loans would essentially pay for themselves by creating substantial savings in homeowners' energy bills. A \$5,000 loan used for retrofitting can create up to \$230 per year in savings, he said. "This isn't like what's going on on Wall Street," he said. "We can pay this back."

However, Berliner said that it would be impossible

for Montgomery County to create the capital for this program on its own, as the county is facing a \$500 million shortfall for next year's budget. "We don't have the cash," he said. "We can't do the good things, we have to do the essential."

"We have to balance our budget; the Feds don't," Berliner added. "We need the Feds to be our banker."

THE CITY of Alexandria also has several projects that could become greener with an infusion of federal dollars.

Alexandria Vice Mayor Del Pepper (D) said that the City will be building a new fire station and a new centralized police facility. Budget constraints prevent these new buildings from achieving a higher LEED rating from the U.S. Green Building Council, she said. But with less than \$1.5 million in federal funds, Pepper said, the facilities could achieve Gold LEED scores.

The greening of public buildings is an important signal to send to the rest of the community, Pepper said. "We want to set the standard for the private development community," she said.

But City Council Member Rob Krupicka (D) said that Alexandria faces some difficult challenges in creating more energy efficient buildings. "We are known for our historic neighborhoods and structures," he said. "But those old buildings are typically not role models for energy conservation."

ARLINGTON COUNTY Board Member Jay Fisette (D) said that his county would use money from a federal stimulus to install solar panels on multiple public buildings. Fisette said that the project would cost \$3 million, money that the county cannot currently afford because it faces a projected \$40 million budget shortfall for next year.

But the installation of solar panels would go a long way towards helping Arlington meet its goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent by 2012, he said. "[A federal stimulus] is crucial for us to meet our greenhouse gas initiative," Fisette said.

Installing solar panels would also have a huge symbolic impact, Fisette said, much like when President Jimmy Carter installed solar panels on the White

"[A federal stimulus] is crucial for us to meet our greenhouse gas initiative."

— Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisette (D)

SEE PROJECT FUNDING, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tejada's Chairmanship Comes to an End

FROM PAGE 3

munity.”

THE COUNTY BOARD took up several controversial items under Tejada's leadership.

Earlier this year, the board changed the county's housing laws to allow homeowners to rent out rooms in their single-family homes. Tejada made this law change a central piece of his agenda, saying that it would increase Arlington's housing stock and create more affordable housing.

But a vocal group of homeowners opposed the measure, fearing that it would lead to overcrowding and that it would be difficult to enforce.

The county held 58 public meetings on



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

County Board Member Walter Tejada (D) ended his yearlong term as chairman this week.

the issue and, ultimately, the measure passed comfortably.

Tejada was also instrumental in the pas-

sage of a surcharge on commercial real estate that was opposed by many in the local business community. To raise funds for local transportation projects, the board increased the county's commercial real estate tax rate by almost 19 percent this year.

When the tax rate increase was considered this spring, Tejada's colleague Barbara Favola (D), who will be chair in 2009, voted against it, saying that the tax increase could create “an environment where only big box retailers can afford to do business in the community.”

But at his end-of-year address last week, Tejada said that the tax increase was necessary to “build the next generation of infrastructure. ... It will help sustain all of the neighborhood commercial districts in the county.”

CARLOS SOLES, a Tejada ally who served as the chair of the County's Multicultural Advisory Commission, said that Tejada's chairmanship will be remembered for his willingness to tackle the diversity issue.

“He did something that everyone else was afraid of,” Soles said. “He took a gamble. He really stuck his neck out, especially in an election year.”

But Tejada's work on this issue was not just for Arlington's Latino community, Soles said. “[He] has given a voice not only to immigrants but to those with less power,” he said.

Larry Mayer, president of the Arlington Civic Federation, said that Tejada fulfilled his agenda. “He accomplished what he set out to accomplish,” Mayer said. “But one is never done in Arlington.”

Arlington Accumulates Sister Cities

FROM PAGE 3

ies across the globe.

Sandra MacDonald, the chair of Arlington's Sister City Association, said that the purpose of a Sister City relationship is to provide low-cost student exchange programs and to cultivate cultural exchanges between the two cities.

A Sister City agreement is not legally binding, MacDonald said, but is about “bringing different people from different cultures together so you have citizens at the ground level doing the work that our professional diplomats don't often accomplish.”

Chris Williams, an Arlington County staffer who assists the Sister City Association, said that members of the association fund their own trips overseas with no financial assistance from the county. Despite this financial barrier, Williams said, the association has been growing steadily since its founding. “It's evolving away from just being a recreational travel club to having real meaning,” he said. “They're on a good stride right now.”

Arlington currently has four official Sister Cities: Aachen, Germany; Reims, France; Coyoacan, Mexico; and San Miguel, El Salvador. The Sister City agreement with San Miguel was made official late last month when MacDonald and County Board Member Walter Tejada (D) traveled to the Central American city to sign the final documents. The Sister City Associa-

tion paid for Tejada's airfare for the trip. Other costs were paid out of pocket.

For Tejada, who emigrated from El Salvador when he was 13, signing the Sister City agreement with San Miguel was an especially gratifying experience.

“We got a wonderful reception,” Tejada said. While the Arlington delegation was in San Miguel, the city held its annual Carnival celebration, the biggest Carnival celebration outside of Rio de Janeiro.

When Tejada arrived at a parade, someone told him that he would be riding on a float designated for the “Alcalde de Arlington” — the mayor of Arlington. “When they first told me I thought they were joking,” Tejada said. “But no ...”

All of a sudden, Tejada said, a float rolled by with the phrase “Alcalde de Arlington” written across it. Somehow, despite the mobs of people at the parade, Tejada, MacDonald and his wife

Robin Liten-Tejada, made their way to the horse-drawn float and rode in the San Miguel Carnival parade, waving to the thousands of San Miguelians as the “Alcalde” of Arlington. “Everyone was having a great time, cheering and waving,” Tejada said. “This is what we're doing here, building long-term relationships.”

“... you have citizens at the ground level doing the work that our professional diplomats don't often accomplish.”

— Sandra MacDonald, Sister City Association



PHOTO COURTESY CHRYSTIA SONEVYTSKA

A group of Arlingtonians stand in front of a 300-year-old church in the Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankivsk, which could be one of Arlington's Sister Cities in the future.



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OPINION

Happy Holidays

Much cause for optimism, but also many reasons to help others.

We wish our readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukah, and an exciting New Year. There is much to fuel optimism here, despite the drumbeat of dismal economic news.

While Northern Virginia is certainly feeling some of the effects of the economic crisis, this is probably the best place in the nation to weather the storm. Employment is strong here, with unemployment still below 4 percent.

This region's economy will get a boost from the January change in administration. Events and visitors for the inauguration itself will bring an infusion, the movement of officials in and out of the region will create economic activity.

And the sheer optimism and enthusiasm for change, and for this particular change, will lift spirits and boats.

Close-in real estate, inside the Beltway, is holding its value. At the bottom end of the real estate spectrum, some condos, townhouses and even some single family detached homes have reached levels of affordability not seen in many moons, and that should bring out first-time home buyers. When first time homebuyers enter the market, this can kick off a kind of domino effect, allowing owners of the houses they buy to move up.

At the same time, we'll all feel the effects of budget cuts in local government, from reduced library hours and other services to the possibility of larger class sizes. There are many more

families in Northern Virginia feeling the pain of the recession, with thousands of foreclosures and, while unemployment is low, the loss of some jobs.

This has dramatically increased demand on groups that provide emergency help for food, housing, utilities and more.

Even groups that help animals are seeing a huge surge in trouble. Some owners are giving up beloved pets when they face foreclosure, while others say they can no longer afford to feed their pets. The Humane Society of Fairfax County, for example, has started a PET food pantry to help people keep their pets.

Enjoy the holidays, and remember to give locally.

To Help

- ❖ Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN), 703-558-0035
- ❖ Doorways for Women and Families, Arlington 703-522-8858
- ❖ Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, www.networkforgood.org
- ❖ Arlington Food Assistance Center 703-845-8486
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- ❖ Arlington Free Clinic, 703-979-1400
- ❖ Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Western Regional Office, 100 Dry Mill Road, SW, Suite 102, Leesburg, 703-443-2481, www.ccca.net

January Is for Fun

This is the last "regular" edition of the Connection for 2008. The edition that will be delivered after Christmas is our annual Children's Connection, featuring the writing and art of area students.

Our first publication date in January will appear on Jan. 7, kicking off a four-part series on fun, with more than 100 ideas for fun local activities in each of our 17 weekly papers. This will no doubt add up to more than 1,101 ways to have fun near home. We'll include tips on free fun, outdoor fun, indoor fun, arts, music, theater, fun at home, food fun and more.

If you have an idea that you think we should include, please let us know.

The Jan. 7 issue will also be our chance to catch up on news and events that happen between Dec. 18 and the beginning of the New Year.

In the meantime, we encourage you to check our Web site to read hundreds of stories from Northern Virginia. See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Arlington Values Remain Strong

BY KEVIN LOVE
RE/MAX ALLEGIANCE

First in an occasional series from the Realtors Roundtable.

Never before has it been more appropriate when discussing the

economy to steal a quote from Tori Spelling but it's "Scary!" On a daily basis we are bombarded by radio, television, newspapers, magazines and the Internet with talk of the recession. Contrary to public opin-

ion, Arlington's property values remain strong.

In the wake of staggering losses on Wall Street, dwindling

401ks, the mortgage & credit crisis, and economic turmoil both nationally and globally, Arlington's property values remain strong. Not a surprise to me given that throughout my 24 years in the local real estate industry, I have repeatedly touted the resilience and solid value inherent to Arlington's neighborhoods.

"The Washington Metropolitan area has and continues to be one of our nation's strongest housing markets," this quote, not from Tori Spelling, but rather from my home page at www.KEVINLOVE.COM, is evidence of my fervent and longstanding belief that Arlington has always been a

ARLINGTON REALTORS ROUNDTABLE

smart buy.

"Business Week", in an article dated Oct. 14, 2008 ranked Arlington County at the top of its list of communities

throughout the U.S. best positioned to weather a recessionary period. V.A.R. (Virginia Association of Realtors) reported that in the third quarter of 2008, prices were up 1.4 percent as compared to 2007.

This said, even Arlington's real estate values retreated and essentially erased recent gains when news of the depth and severity of the current mortgage crisis surfaced early in October. Couple this with the fact that most homebuyers were opting to postpone a purchase until after the elections, and it's amazing that as many Arlington homes sold as actually did during October. According to MRIS (Metropolitan Regional Information System) 53 detached homes went under contract or sold in the month of October '08 compared to 78 detached homes in October '07.

Several encouraging aspects to

SEE ARLINGTON, PAGE 10

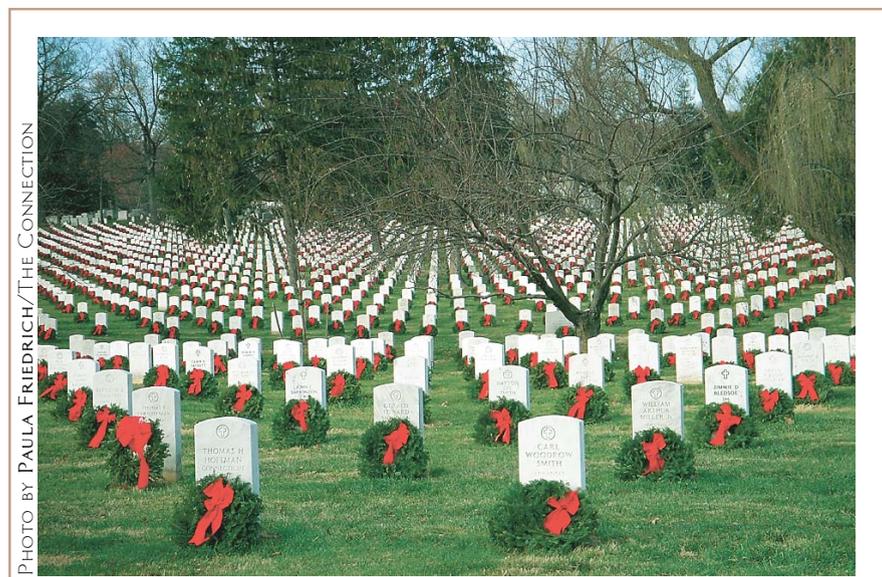


PHOTO BY PAULA FRIEDRICH/THE CONNECTION

Holiday Wreaths Gravestones at Arlington Cemetery received 10,000 holiday wreaths on Saturday, Dec. 13, from the Worcester Wreath Co. of Maine. The company began the Arlington National Cemetery project in 1992 to honor fallen veterans.

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Local Leaders Ask for Funds

FROM PAGE 4

House. "That was an important message," Fisette said. "Everyone should be putting solar panels on prominent buildings."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY in homes is especially important in Loudoun County, according to Loudoun Supervisor Andrea Gimsey (D). Because Loudoun has been growing so fast in recent years, she said, many homes were built with faulty construction work and are now highly inefficient. "Energy is just flying out of the house," she said.

If Congress passes a stimulus for local governments, Gimsey said that Loudoun County would use their funds to pay for the construction of a geothermal fire station. The fire station would be heated and cooled using natural energy from below the Earth's surface.

Gimsey said that the geothermal fire station would result in 30 percent energy savings and would recoup its initial construction expenses in three years. "After that," she said, "It's just pure taxpayer savings."

"This is not just a way to help the local governments," she added. "It's a way to help local taxpayers."

THIS WEEK IN ARLINGTON

FROM PAGE 4

The two-year grant, which came from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women, will fund two full-time positions, a part-time positions and the creation of an information system that will help track domestic violence in Arlington. The positions hired will be a Special Victims Unit crime analyst, a victim witness specialist and a court advocate, all of whom will be bilingual.

Project PEACE contains members from a variety of Arlington County officials. Representatives from the courts, police, public schools, colleges, the faith community and non-profit organizations are all a part of the program.

"This is a major step forward in our efforts to address and prevent domestic violence in the community," said Arlington County Board Member Barbara Favola (D), who is also the chair of Project PEACE. "The grant money will allow us to add dedicated staff at key points in our response system and will help us establish a seamless service approach for clients."

County Tax Relief Program Widened

Many households in Arlington will be re-

ceiving larger discounts on their real estate taxes this year after the county's Real Estate Tax Relief program was altered by the County Board last week.

Now, those households earning less than \$85,268 and with assets of less than \$340,000 are eligible for partial or full real estate tax relief.

Previously, the eligibility requirements were income levels of \$95,515 and assets of \$540,000.

The changes were made in response to the programs rising costs. Between 2001 and 2009, the tax relief program's costs grew almost 800 percent, according to a county statement.

As a result of this eligibility change, 47 households will see greater tax relief than in previous years, according to a county statement. But, according to the statement, 125 households will lose their real estate tax exemptions. Many of these households would still qualify for tax relief until their homes changed ownership, according to the statement.

"The changes allow us to move forward with a sustainable tax relief program that benefits those households it was originally intended to benefit," County Board Chairman Walter Tejada (D) said. "Households that have lower income and asset levels ... will continue to receive this important form of relief."

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NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Ring In The New Year

Arlington offers several options for Dec. 31 fun.

By DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

People prepare for Christmas weeks in advance, yet preparations for New Year's Eve typically don't start until after all the presents are put away. But for many, New Year's Eve is the highlight of the winter holiday season. In Arlington, many nightlife hotspots are pulling out all the stops this Dec. 31. While there are a plethora of New Year's Eve celebrations in Arlington, we have selected three places in the county to ring in 2009:

DOMASO TRATTORIA is an upscale restaurant and wine bar in Rosslyn that opened earlier this year. For its inaugural New Year's Eve celebration, Domaso will have a special menu featuring some of its most eclectic tastes.

The restaurant is offering a five-course meal featuring butternut squash soup, mushroom risotto and cedar roasted arctic char, among other items. The meal costs \$95 and comes with wine pairings. "It's a good value considering the economy right now," Domaso spokesperson Charissa Benjamin said. Domaso is also offering a three-course meal with wine pairings for \$75.

The restaurant will also feature Latin and electronic music from a local DJ, drink specials between 10 p.m. and midnight and a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. There is no cover charge for the party, Benjamin said, and you can attend without purchasing dinner.

THE CRYSTAL CITY Sports Pub is offering an all-inclusive package for its New Year's Celebrations.

For \$199, celebrators get a lobster dinner for two, a room at a nearby hotel and what Sports Pub owner John Finley described as a "hangover brunch" the following day. "It's



PHOTO COURTESY CRYSTAL CITY SPORTS PUB

Revelers ring in 2008 at the Crystal City Sports Pub

a great deal" he said, "The best in the city."

Finley said that the pub is including the hotel room with its New Year's Eve package as a service to the community. "We try to do that for the neighborhood," he said, "So people don't have to drive." The Sports Pub is also offering a \$39.99 package with dinner, party favors and a champagne toast.

But at Finley's massive, three-story behemoth of a bar, New Year's Day might be the

When & Where

Here is a list of the places featured in this story:

Domaso Trattoria
1121 19th Street North
703-351-1211
www.domasotrattoria.com

Crystal City Sports Pub
529 23rd Street South
703-521-8215
www.ccsportspub.com

Tandoori Nights
2800 Clarendon Boulevard
703-248-8333
www.tandoorinights.com

said.

TANDOORI NIGHTS is an Indian restau-

rant located in heart of the Clarendon area. For New Year's Eve, the restaurant is offering an open bar and a sprawling buffet. According to the restaurant's manager, Sidharth Dhawan, the bar will feature all premium liquors and the buffet will have chicken, lamb, vegetarian dishes, kabobs, bread, rice and desserts. Access to this feast will cost \$100.

The restaurant will also feature big screen televisions to watch the ball drop in Times Square and a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. In addition to this, a DJ will be spinning South Asian records all night, Dhawan said. He expects over 100 people to come to the restaurant on New Year's Eve.

"It will be a good time, for sure," he said.

enjoy bowling and pizza. \$15/person. 703-228-4711.

TUESDAY/DEC. 30

For the Birds. 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Preschoolers can learn about birds – how they keep warm and build shelter. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Teen Trip: Ice Skating and Movies. 11 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Teens can enjoy ice skating at Kettlers and movie at Ballston. \$20/teen. 703-228-4711.

Antiques on the Road. 1:30 p.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. Bring a treasured object and get an expert's appraisal. Free. 703-228-0555.

Mama's and Papa's Day BBQ Luncheon. 10:30 a.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. Play bingo and enjoy lunch. \$6/person. To register, 703-228-0555.

Real Reptiles Campfire. 1:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can enjoy campfire activities

CALENDAR

Know of something missing from our community entertainment Calendar? Send it to The Arlington Connection, e-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTING:

Arlington artist Barbara Weber will have work on display during the Holiday Open House at Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan, **from Dec. 2 through Jan. 5**. Visit www.theartistsundertaking.com or 703-494-0584.

ONGOING:

The **Arlington Farmers' Market** takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon year round. Located at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for more on

the market and vendors.

FRIDAY/DEC. 26

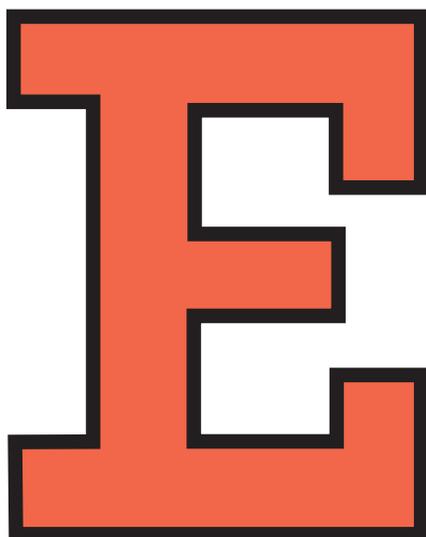
Rockin' Holiday. 9 p.m. at IOTA Club and Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hear music by Janine Wilson Band, Billy Coulter Band and David Kitchen. \$10/person. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or 703-522-8340.

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Dance Performance. Noon at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Janke Franklin Dance will perform. Free. 703-228-0949.
Storytime Classics. Noon at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-8 can hear stories by Thornton Burgess about native animals. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

Teen Trip: Bowling and Pizza. Noon at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Teens can



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

including stories, guests and more. \$3/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

Teen Trip: Funland. 10 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. Teens can enjoy laser tag, go-karts, games and more. \$20/person. 703-228-4711.

Wild Ones: Whale Tails. 10:30 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 6-10 can learn about these mammals. \$2/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Mysteries of the Titanic. 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Mary Lipsey leads a discussion. Free. 703-228-5722.

Wet-and-Wild Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Families can enjoy stories, animals, artifacts and more. Free, but tickets required, 703-228-6535.

New Year's Eve Stroll and Campfire. 6 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families explore the park, enjoy edible noisemakers and toss resolutions into "wishing campfire." \$5/person. To register, 703-228-3403.

Firefly Campfire. 6 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can enjoy activities, stories and more. \$3/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

THURSDAY/JAN. 1

Ice Cream Social with Chopin. 7 p.m. at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. \$1/person. 703-228-4403 to register.

The Naturalists' Collectors Club. 7

p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 11-13 can learn about nature and more, and take home an artifact. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Stars of Winter. 7 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. 24th St. Families with children ages 7 and up can learn about the brightest stars in the sky. \$2/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/JAN. 3

There Goes My Tail. 11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 8-12 can learn about animals that can regenerate lost parts. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Mama's and Papa's Day BBQ Dinner. 5 p.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. Play bingo and enjoy lunch. \$6/person. To register, 703-228-0555.

Plant Exchange and Master Gardener Talk. 5 p.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. Bring cuttings of favorite native plants and swap with others. Free. Registration required, 703-228-0555.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SUNDAY/JAN. 4

Twelfth Night Celebration. 5 p.m. at Advent Lutheran Church, 2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Enjoy music, activities and more. Family-friendly. Free. Visit www.adventlc.us or 703-521-7010.

New Year's Hike. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at

Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Hike at Catoctin Mountain National Park in Thurmont, Md. Meet at Lubber Run. \$10/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner and learn about them. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Birding Trip to Cape Henlopen State Park. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can go to the beaches along the Delaware Bay to search for ducks and loons. Meet at Lubber Run. \$25/person. To register, 703-228-3403.

It's Ok to be Different. 10:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs road. Children ages 3-5 can learn why some animals look different and how that helps them. \$3/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Salute to Soldiers and Veterans. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Take part in a stirring tribute to honor the sacrifices and bravery of America's service personnel. \$6/person includes lunch. Registration required, 703-228-5722.

Animal Dads. 4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Learn about male animals who are the primary caregivers for their babies. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Music Auditions. Singers over the age of 55 can try out for the Encore Chorale singers from 2-3:30 p.m. at Langston Brown Senior Center, 2121 Culpepper St. Free. Visit encorecreativity.org or 301-261-5747.

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New Year's Eve Fun Starts at 4 o'clock
14th annual
MADD 5k Red Ribbon Run
Benefiting Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern Virginia
Put on your running shoes before putting on your party shoes
A Great New Year's Eve Family Event

When:	Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 4:00 PM
Where:	George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) - 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concern Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com .
What:	USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration:	\$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th and on race day
Packet Pick-up:	Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration:	GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM (& Packet Pick-up)

Register online at www.racepacket.com
For info, see www.maddnova.org or 703-379-1135

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NEWSPAPERS

Wishing Arlington a Safe and Happy Holiday!



Awarded WRAP's 2008 Community Partner Award for donating staff time to oversee the entire SoberRide communications operation.

If you celebrate the holidays with alcohol, designate a driver, or call WRAP's SoberRide 1-800-200-TAXI for a FREE ride HOME (up to a \$50 fare) 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. nightly, 12/12/08 to 1/1/09.

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November 26 to January 4

Admission per car:
Monday to Thursday: \$15
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$20

\$3 off weekday admission price. Coupon good Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Holidays include Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1. Offer valid for 2008 season. Coupon good for one car only, cannot be combined with other offers.

Bull Run Regional Park
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville

www.nvrpa.org

Arlington Real Estate Weathers Economy

FROM PAGE 6

consider are that last month's sales numbers for detached homes in Arlington are at least equivalent to that of November 2007. Demand remains high and is perhaps increasing due in part to the rising number of active listings available, many of which are carryovers unsold from prior month's inventories. It's important also to note that many of the homes that have remained unsold from earlier in the year have also seen multiple price reductions and are deemed values in comparison to recently sold properties, termed comparables.

Additionally, the best piece of news to fuel increased demand is that mortgage rates have finally begun to fall. Multiple attempts by the Federal Reserve Board throughout this past year by cutting interest rates were not enough, but rates began falling with the announcement of the \$700 billion rescue for the credit markets to free up frozen consumer and mortgage lending.

The combination of lower interest rates and the many active listings available at new improved pricing could be just what the local real estate market needs.

The Arlington Realtors Roundtable is comprised of an group of local real estate agents who meet regularly to exchange information. Agents discuss upcoming listings, new marketing strategies, buyer profiles, promotional materials, and financing tips. Members of the Roundtable include agents from Re/Max, Coldwell Banker, Long and Foster, Weichert, McEneaney, Hayes and Schneider, American Realty Group, and Fall Properties. The Realtors Roundtable is committed to professional growth. These top agents know that selling real estate is not about competition, but communication and cooperation.

More at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



PHOTO BY ARMY STAFF SGT. JON SOUCY

Ready for Readiness Center Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn and Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, break ground on the new \$98 million Army National Guard Readiness Center. The center is being moved from Crystal City to the Arlington Hall site on George Mason Drive as a result of the Army's Base Realignment and Closure Committee, or BRAC. The new building will add about 243,000 square feet and provide workspace for more than 1,100 additional people. Construction is to be completed in mid-2011 with personnel occupying the space shortly thereafter. A five-story parking garage is also scheduled to be built adjacent to the new structure and is scheduled for completion by 2013.



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<p>Assemblies of God Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667 Calvary Gospel Church...703-525-6636</p> <p>Buddhism The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center 202-331-2122</p> <p>Churches-Catholic St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166 Cathedral of St Thomas More...703-525-1300 Our Lady of Lourdes ...703-684-9261 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic 703-979-5580 St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276 St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500</p> <p>Church of Christ Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535</p> <p>Church of God-Anderson, Indiana Church of God...703-671-6726</p>	<p>Churches-Episcopal St Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600 St George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286 St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834 St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800</p> <p>Churches-Episcopal St Michael S Episcopal Church 703-241-2474 St Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625 St Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606 St Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330 Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077</p> <p>Churches Lutheran(ELCA) Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010 Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283 German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952 Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991</p> <p>Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod) Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846</p>	<p>Churches-Nazarene Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516</p> <p>Church-Brethren Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100</p> <p>Churches-Baptist Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344 Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210 First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824 Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411</p> <p>Churches-Baptist-Free Will Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040</p> <p>Churches-Presbyterian Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660 Church of Covenant ...703-524-4115 Clarendon Presbyterian Church 703-527-9513</p>	<p>Little Falls Presbyterian Church 703-538-5230 Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600 Westminster Presbyterian ...703-549-4766</p> <p>Churches-Unitarian Universalist Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington 703-892-2565</p> <p>Churches-United Methodist Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185 Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621 Chesterbrook United Methodist ...703-356-7100 Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574 Community United Methodist...703-527-1085 Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934 Churches-United Methodist Trinity United Methodist...703-356-3312 Walker Chapel United Methodist ...703-538-5200</p> <p>Churches-United Church of Christ Bethel United Church of Christ ...703-528-0937 Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ...703-538-4886</p> <p>Metaphysical Arlington Metaphysical Chapel ...703-276-8738</p> <p>Presbyterian Church in America Churches Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420</p> <p>Synagogues - Conservative Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466</p> <p>Synagogues - Orthodox Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520 Chabad Luvavitch of Alexandria-Arlington ...703-370-2774</p> <p>Synagogue - Reconstructionist Kol Ami, the North Virginia Reconstructionist Community ...571-271-8387</p>
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Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
 Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
 Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
 5312 North 10th Street
 Arlington Virginia 22205
 Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

DAILY EUCHARIST:
 Weekdays
 Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
 Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are Welcome!



PARISH WEBSITE:
www.rc.net/arlington/stann



Westover Baptist Church

Wednesday Prayer Service 2:00 PM 1125 N. Patrick Henry Drive
Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School **703-237-8292**
 & 11:00 AM Worship www.westoverbaptist.org

To highlight your Faith Community call Karen at 703-917-6468

HOME SALES

11/01/08 ~ 11/21/08

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
5340 27TH ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,679,713	Detached	0.35	.....	COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES
2621 24TH ST N	6	4	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.59	..	DOVER BALMORAL RIVERWOOD
2208 18TH ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.10	.....	LYON VILLAGE
3049 MILITARY RD	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,337,885	Detached	0.22	.....	BELLEVUE FOREST
906 HIGHLAND ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.11	.....	CLARENDON
1721 ADAMS ST	3	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.21	.....	AURORA HEIGHTS
5418 21ST ST N	4	4	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.18	.....	TARA
4055 27TH RD N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,060,000	Detached	0.29	..	DOVER BALMORAL RIVERWOOD
4618 6TH ST S	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.25	.....	BARCROFT
1048 STAFFORD ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$970,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	BROMPTONS AT BALLSTON
4405 17TH ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$965,000	Detached	0.13	.....	WILLET HEIGHTS
2415 FAIRFAX DR	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$890,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	COURTHOUSE HILL
1818 VEITCH ST N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$873,000	Detached	0.08	.....	AURORA HEIGHTS
1001 POTOMAC ST N	4	2	2	ARLINGTON	..	\$853,000	Detached	0.16	.....	MADISON MANOR
4603 16TH ST N	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$850,000	Detached	0.15	.....	WILLET HEIGHTS
4417 36TH ST N	3	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$810,000	Detached	0.38	.....	ARLINGWOOD
1600 LEXINGTON ST N	3	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$807,000	Detached	0.20	.....	PARKHURST
1043 26TH RD S	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$799,000	Detached	0.21	.....	AURORA HILLS
4215 15TH ST N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$725,000	Detached	0.39	.....	CHERRYDALE
1517 KENTUCKY ST N	4	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$720,770	Detached	0.17	.....	LEEWAY HEIGHTS
1415 EDISON ST N	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$720,000	Detached	0.19	.....	WAYCROFT
2314 INGE ST S	5	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$700,000	Detached	0.12	.....	AURORA HILLS
5313 31ST RD N	4	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$685,000	Detached	0.27	.....	CRESCENT HILLS
725 VERMONT ST N	3	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$683,900	Townhouse	0.02	.....	COURTS OF BALLSTON
6340 12TH PL N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$675,000	Detached	0.14	.....	MADISON MANOR
1200 ABINGDON ST	3	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$635,000	Detached	0.25	.....	WAYCROFT
2313 EVERGREEN ST N	4	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$630,000	Detached	0.15	.....	COUNTRY CLUB
1107 18TH ST S	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$630,000	Detached	0.14	.....	ADDISON HEIGHTS
6017 22ND ST N	4	4	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$622,000	Detached	0.18	.....	OVER LEE KNOLLS
228 EVERGREEN ST N	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$615,000	Detached	0.16	.....	ARLINGTON FOREST
2415 DICKERSON ST N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$600,000	Detached	0.17	.....	COUNTRY CLUB
6630 29TH ST N	4	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$597,100	Detached	0.23	.....	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD
1033 STAFFORD ST N	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$592,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	RANDOLPH SQUARE
1523 TAYLOR ST N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$577,500	Detached	0.29	.....	WILLET HEIGHTS
2126 TAZEWEEL CT N	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.02	.....	WAVERLEY HILLS
2401 ROOSEVELT ST N	3	1	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$570,000	Detached	0.14	.....	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD
2001 15TH ST N #1513	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$555,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	ODYSSEY
1200 NASH ST #1148	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$543,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	PROSPECT HOUSE
1431 LONGFELLOW ST	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$537,500	Detached	0.12	.....	WESTOVER
6045 26TH RD N	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$525,000	Detached	0.16	.....	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD
851 GLEBE RD N #1005	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$520,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	CONTINENTAL
2416 WALTER REED DR S #3	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$520,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	WINDGATE OF ARL
1805 CRYSTAL DR #808S	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$507,825	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	CRYSTAL PARK -S
3625 10TH ST N #403	2	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$501,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	MONROE
1814 GEORGE MASON DR N	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.12	.....	TARA TOWNE
2026 RANDOLPH ST S	4	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$480,000	Detached	0.11	.....	DOUGLAS PARK NEW ARL.
14 MANCHESTER ST S #7	4	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$474,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	MANCHESTER SQUARE
3916 16TH ST S	3	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$465,000	Detached	0.15	.....	DOUGLAS PARK NEW ARL.
624 OAKLAND ST N	3	1	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$460,000	Duplex	0.06	.....	KENMORE
1045 UTAH ST N #2-612	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$452,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	.....	WINDSOR PLAZA
2518 WALTER REED DR S #B	2	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$448,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	WINDGATE OF ARL
900 STAFFORD ST N #1907	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$445,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	ALTA VISTA
4432 FOUR MILE RUN DR S	3	3	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$445,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	BARCROFT TOWNS
4734 ARLINGTON BLVD	5	3	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$443,000	Detached	0.23	.....	ARLINGTON FOREST
1020 STAFFORD ST N #402	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$439,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	SUMMERWALK I&II
812 IVY ST S	2	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$425,000	Detached	0.11	.....	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
1600 OAK ST N #1228	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$410,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	BELVEDERE
4623 34TH ST S	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$410,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	FAIRLINGTON COMM
4141 HENDERSON RD N #823	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$393,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	HYDE PARK
4146 36TH ST S #869	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$390,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	FAIRLINGTON GLEN
701 FLORIDA ST S	5	2	1	ARLINGTON	..	\$389,000	Detached	0.14	.....	COLUMBIA TERRACE
5920 5TH RD S	2	1	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$387,000	Detached	0.35	GLEN CARLIN
4141 HENDERSON RD #905	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	..	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	HYDE PARK

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SPORTS

Holiday Tournament Preview

Wakefield Holiday Tournament offers plenty of excitement.

By MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

For any high school hoops junkie around the area, there's not a better time of the year than Christmas break. With school out of session, the best players in the Northern region get a chance to shine in area holiday tournaments.

Once again this year, the Wakefield boy's basketball team will host its annual Holiday tournament. This year's field features some potentially intriguing matchups with Washington-Lee, undefeated defending state champion T.C. Williams, the Titans' Alexandria rival St. Stephen/St. Agnes, Annandale, Massaponax, Forest Park, and Osbourn Park joining

Wakefield in the bracket.

Quarterfinal action begins at 1 p.m. on Dec. 27, with the semifinals to take place on Dec. 29 and the championship game on Dec. 30 at 6:15 p.m. All action will take place at Wakefield High School.

The **Yorktown** boy's basketball team will take part in the annual Mount Vernon Holiday Basketball Tournament at Mount Vernon High School. The Patriots will take on McKinley Tech in quarterfinal action on Dec. 26 at 3 p.m. The semifinals and finals follow on Dec. 27 and Dec. 29, respectively.

The **Bishop O'Connell** boy's team could put a midseason stamp on its legitimacy as a top-50 team with some jet setting over winter break in two national tournaments — the Mission Prep Classic in California and the Bojangles Shootout in North Carolina.

The **Wakefield** girl's team will take part in the Oakton Holiday Tournament beginning Dec. 26.

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Yorktown Takes Round 1 Over W-L

Strong second half leads Patriot boys over winless rivals.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Washington-Lee coach Bobby Dotson just shook his head in disbelief as the Yorktown student section congregated directly behind his bench. Only in this rivalry would a supposed home court advantage turn into anything but.

For the first time in his long career coaching the Generals, Dotson had to conduct every single timeout standing in the middle of the floor thanks

to the rowdy Patriot student body. If he didn't, his players had no way of hearing his voice.

It wasn't as if W-L didn't have impressive representation at the game; their student section was equally as large and nearly as loud as their Patriot counterparts.

It all fed into an exciting and regional-final like atmosphere that ultimately ended in a 50-43 Yorktown victory.

"This is the way basketball is meant to be played," said Yorktown coach Rich Avila after his team upped its record to 2-4 this season. "You just gotta deal with the pressure, deal with the intensity. That game could have gone either way. Somebody had to win and I'm just glad it was us tonight."

"This is the way basketball is meant to be played."

— Yorktown coach Rich Avila



W-L junior Rock Battle and Yorktown senior Kyle Toulouse go after the ball during Tuesday night's Arlington rivalry game.

W-L JUMPED OUT to a seven-point lead in the first quarter as the Patriots fought an uphill battle, entering halftime down five. But a quick 7-0 run to start the second half gave Yorktown the lead and the back-and-forth battle was on from there.

"We were a lot more patient in the second half," said senior Kyle Toulouse, who had seven points, three rebounds, and three assists in his second game back from an ankle injury. "In the first half we got down

real quick and we wanted to get back into the game, so we just rushed some shots."

The most notable transformation came from senior Simon Kilday, an all-district selection a year ago. After a slow start, Kilday worked his way out from the interior, hitting the offensive glass with a passion in the second half. The success on the inside got his outside game going, helping him finish with a game-high 15 points and

SEE PATRIOT BOYS, PAGE 15

Led by point guard LaNia Charity, Patriot girls are off to 4-1 start.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

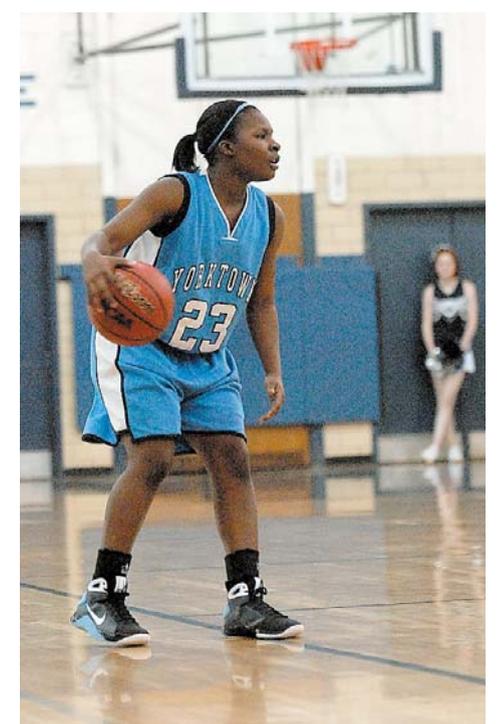
All the great players, whether it's at the high school, college, or professional ranks, have that sixth sense of when to put their foot on the proverbial basketball gas pedal. When their team is faltering, the best seem to take their games to another level.

So as Washington-Lee inched ever closer to rival Yorktown at the start of the second half last Tuesday night, it was only a matter of time before the Patriots' LaNia Charity, the lone returning all-district selection on the court, had other ideas about how competitive the Generals would ultimately make this game.

In a matter of moments after W-L had closed to within eight points to start the third quarter, Charity had two steals, two baskets, and one defining statement to her Arlington counterparts. The ensuing 55-32 victory over the Generals let it be known that there will be no free giveaways for Charity and her Patriots this season.

"She knows when to push the ball, when to just control it, and when to let things to just kind of take off," said Yorktown coach Kim Cordell of her star player, who finished with 19 points and six steals against W-L.

SEE PATRIOT BOYS, PAGE 15



An all-district player a year ago, senior LaNia Charity poured in 19 points and had six steals to help lead Yorktown past rival Washington-Lee Tuesday night.



W-L's Dajon Taylor tries to get by senior Batjargal Ganbat. Taylor had a team-high 12 points for the Generals.



Yorktown's Will Carey and W-L's Brent Powell battle for a loose ball in the first half of last Tuesday's 50-43 Patriot win. The two rivals meet again on Jan. 27.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

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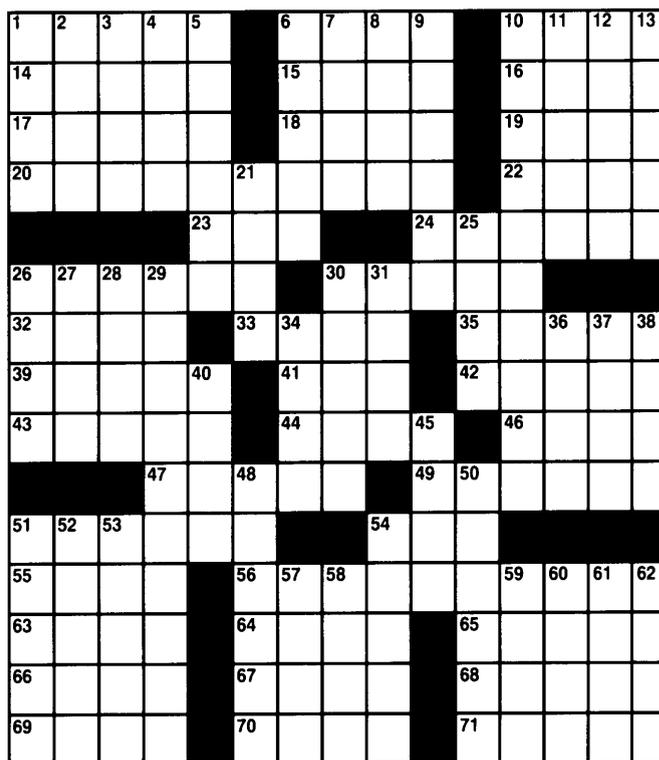
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Puzzle by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

- 1 False witnesses
- 6 Vocalizes like the Beastie Boys
- 10 Parks in 1955 news
- 14 Venezuela's — Falls
- 15 Clairvoyant's start
- 16 Has a tab
- 17 Suffix with sea or moon
- 18 Grocery vehicle
- 19 College course division
- 20 Production in a given period
- 22 Trait determinant
- 23 Pirouette point
- 24 MacNeil's longtime partner
- 26 Sombrero accompanier
- 30 Transparent
- 32 "—'Clock Jump"
- 33 Classic soft drink
- 35 Italian tourist center
- 39 Third-stringer
- 41 Sharpshooter's gift
- 42 Beat by a whisker
- 43 Use weasel words
- 44 Meat loaf serving
- 46 "Holy moly!"
- 47 Papa Doc ruled it
- 49 Stats for a porous defense
- 51 Battle site of 1916
- 54 Gulped down
- 55 Mideast bigwig
- 56 Pro-slavery Northerners, before the Civil War
- 63 Mission cancellation
- 64 Folklore fiend
- 65 Speechify
- 66 Lone Star State sch.
- 67 Chemicals giant
- 68 Hertz — Car
- 69 Slippery critters
- 70 Sit a spell
- 71 Alma —

DOWN

- 1 In the cellar
- 2 Rainfall measurement
- 3 Lab gel
- 4 Bank takeback
- 5 Mr. Moto, e.g.
- 6 Nouveau —
- 7 "Hurry, please!"
- 8 Pizarro conquest
- 9 Avoid a trial
- 10 Hero of 1898
- 11 Dog tag datum
- 12 Left Bank river
- 13 Autumn bloomer
- 21 Hoodlum
- 25 Move carefully (into)

- 26 Swanky
- 27 Years ago
- 28 Uncool sort
- 29 Cold comfort?
- 30 Burger or dog topper
- 31 Vegetable soup bean
- 34 All-star game side, often
- 36 Waffle brand
- 37 Warm, so to speak
- 38 States further
- 40 Belle's man
- 45 One of Alcott's "Little Women"
- 48 Like some pools or paint
- 50 — Judaism
- 51 Stage or stadium, say
- 52 Ham it up
- 53 Star in Orion
- 54 Insurance seller
- 57 Look lustfully
- 58 "QB VII" author
- 59 Field of study
- 60 Defeatist's word
- 61 Politically incorrect suffix
- 62 Mark with a branding iron

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SPORTS

"They got that taste and now they want more of it," said Yorktown coach Kim Cordell of how last year's run to the regional playoffs at the Patriot Center has translated into this season. Here Yorktown sophomore Peyton Lee streaks past W-L's Rachel Rich during Tuesday night's 55-32 victory for the Patriots.

Patriot Girls Are Off to 4-1 Start

FROM PAGE 12

"She has a great knack for feeling that in the game."

OFF TO A 4-1 START to the season, just one year after a breakthrough run to the Patriot Center in 2007-08, the Yorktown girl's basketball team has quickly re-emerged as a force to be reckoned with.

Much of it has to do with Charity, who has embraced more of a leadership role this season. Her calm presence oozes from the rest of her teammates. No matter the score, this team seems to have an understanding of just how well it should be playing.

Against W-L Tuesday, the Patriots used a fierce full court press that caused 16 General turnovers in the first half alone, jumping out to an 11-2 lead they never relinquished. And despite the talents of Charity, it's the potential of the collective whole that has driven this team to early season success.

"Even though we're a young team, our team is playing really good together," said Charity. "People underestimate us."

Added Cordell: "They aren't doing it as individuals. The five that are on the court are just so fluid together and know where

each other is going to cut and know where each other likes the ball to get passed to. You can just see it. Some of the passes are incredible."

Helping out Charity against W-L were sophomore Brooke Huffman (10 points, five rebounds) and senior Shannon Briggs (eight points).

Cordell credits Yorktown's surprising run to the Patriot Center a year ago for giving the team the necessary confidence and "taste" of the big time this season.

The Patriots stiffest competition in the National District this season should come from Mount Vernon, which has already scored a huge upset, defeating T.C. Williams earlier this month.

But Yorktown's lone loss came to a Lee team many figures to be a top team in the region. And the Patriots' three wins have all been close, down-to-the-wire victories. It's all just the beginning for a team that has an innate sense of just how far it could go this season, something unbecoming of a group of high school girls.

"They experienced success and we've never looked back," said Cordell.

Yorktown and W-L will meet again on Jan. 27.

"They experienced success and we've never looked back."

— Yorktown coach Kim Cordell

Strong Second Half for Patriot Boys

FROM PAGE 12

15 rebounds.

"That's the kind of player he needs to be for us," said Avila. "He needs to step up for us and get a double-double."

And as if the odds weren't stacked against Dotson enough with a rowdy student section directly behind his bench, the coach's star player, senior Gavin Treweek, went down with an ankle injury early in the second half that severely limited his production throughout. Treweek finished with just two points, both of which came from the free throw line. Junior Dajon Taylor led the Generals with 12 points and seven rebounds.

"Our best player didn't score and you can't win a game when your best player doesn't score," said Dotson afterwards.

THE GAME GAVE both teams a chance to reflect on just how passionate they are about this rivalry. Treweek said his ankle injury had him on the verge of tears, not

because of the pain, but because he thought he might miss his final home game against Yorktown.

Patriot junior Mike Veith, who finished with 15 points and six rebounds, said his basketball season surrounds the two games a year against W-L.

"I wait for it every year," said Veith. "I don't like to lose to W-L. It hurts real bad."

And while both Yorktown and W-L (0-6) are off to relatively slow starts to the season, if both play with the spirit and intensity of Tuesday night going forward, postseason success could be inevitable.

"We just got to keep fighting," said Dotson. "We're not an 0-6 team. We just got to make some shots."

Said Toulouse of his Yorktown team: "We were a really sporadic team through the first six games. We were really hot one game and dead cold the next. We just need to find that balance."

The two teams will meet again on Jan. 27.

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